

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6166

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, BL, CI

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE ROUTE TO THE SEA

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 5304, (B) LA PAZ 5351

1. GOP OFFICIAL DISCUSSED WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 6 CEREMONIES IN BOLIVIA CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY.

2. ALTHOUGH NO DECISIONS ON BOLIVIA'S ACCESS TO THE SEA ARE EXPECTED TO BE REACHED AT LA PAZ GATHERING, MILGOV OFFICIAL SAID GOP EXPECTED THIS ISSUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED. OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT PARTIES MIGHT ESTABLISH A TRIPARTITE (BOLIVIA-CHILE-PERU) COMMISSION TO STUDY MODALITIES OF BOLIVIAN ACCESS TO THE SEA, WITH VENEZUELA OFFERING TO ACT AS KIND OF GUARANTOR OF PROCESS.

3. COMMENT: PERU IS AWARE OF POTENTIAL THIS ISSUE FOR DESTABILIZING BANZER AND FOR AUGMENTING BOLIVIAN/CHILEAN TENSIONS. IN INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH, VELASCO UNDERLINED THE "UNDERSTANDING OF THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE FOR JUST ASPIRATIONS" OF BOLIVIA AND HE EXPRESSED "CONFIDENCE THAT THIS ASPIRATION (ACCESS TO SEA) WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW." VELASCO SEEMED TO BE PREPARING PERUVIANS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER. IN SPITE OF CONSISTENT
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PERUVIAN THREAT TO IMPOSE VETO IN CASE OF ABRUPT CHILEAN/

BOLIVIAN DEAL ON ACCESS TO SEA, VELASCO IS ON RECORD AS VIEWING BOLIVIA'S ASPIRATIONS AS POSITIVE AND FAVORING INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE GOP MAY FEEL, AS DOES THE APRA PARTY, THAT VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT ANDRES PEREZ WILL MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS AT AUGUST 6 LA PAZ GATHERING. IF SO, GOP MAY BE PREPARED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY.

4. GOP MAY VIEW NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WILL NO DOUBT BE LENGTHY, AS USEFUL EITHER FOR REDUCING TENSIONS IN AREA OR FOR SHIFTING CHILEAN CONCERN ON NORTHERN BORDER TOWARD BOLIVIAN PROBLEM AND AWAY FROM LATENT PERUVIAN THREAT.
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